

CLAIMS:

1. A method of using intellectual property to generate licensing revenue, comprising:
forming a business entity;
acquiring at least one intellectual property asset from at least one IP owner who is not an employee of the business entity;
generating royalty revenue from the at least one intellectual property asset;
defending the at least one intellectual property asset; and
providing at least one investor with at least a portion of the royalty revenue.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the business entity includes at least one of an investment trust and a limited partnership.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one intellectual property asset includes at least one of a patent, a trademark, a copyright, a trade secret, and software.
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one investor includes at least one of an intellectual property asset owner, an inventor, and a corporation.
5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein an owner of the at least one intellectual property asset is not required to pay the business entity for the licensing.
6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the acquiring includes acquiring at least one of licensing rights, exclusive rights, ownership rights, a joint venture, and franchising rights.

7. A system for generating royalty revenue, comprising:

a business entity configured to acquire rights to at least one intellectual property asset from at least one IP owner who is not an employee of the business entity; and

a licensing group, operating on behalf of the business entity, configured to perform at least one licensing activity to generate royalty revenue from the at least one intellectual property asset, thereby providing income for the at least one IP owner,

wherein the business entity is configured to defend the at least one intellectual property asset for the at least one owner.

8. The system according to Claim 7, wherein the at least one owner is not required to pay the business entity for the at least one licensing activity.

9. The system according to Claim 8, wherein the rights includes at least one of licensing rights, exclusive rights, ownership rights, and franchising rights.

10. The system according to Claim 7, wherein the business entity is configured to use at least one of a technology transfer, a purchase, a license, a joint venture, and an alliance to acquire the rights.

11. The system according to Claim 7, further comprising at least one investor in the at least one business entity, wherein the business entity is configured to provide the at least one investor with at least a portion of the royalty revenue.

12. The system according to Claim 11, wherein the at least one investor includes at least one of a cash investor and a second intellectual property asset owner.

13. The system of Claim 7, wherein the business entity includes at least one of an investment trust and a limited partnership.
14. The system of Claim 7, wherein the at least one intellectual property asset includes at least one of a patent, a trademark, a copyright, a trade secret, and software.
15. The system of Claim 7, wherein the at least one owner includes at least one of an inventor, a non-inventor intellectual property asset owner, and a corporation.
16. The system of Claim 7, wherein the at least one licensing activity includes at least one of a patent valuation activity and a patent assertion activity.